

training. CityServe's work grew tenfold during the coronavirus pandemic and in 2020, the organization provided over 150,000 meals and supplies to residents, due in large part to Pastor Robinson's work, which led to CityServe being recognized as the 2021 Nonprofit of the Year for California's 16th Senate District.

Throughout her life, Pastor Robinson has led with grace, humility, and a steadfast devotion to God and community. Though she will be greatly missed in Bakersfield, I am confident she will continue to uplift and transform the people around her. On behalf of the 23rd Congressional District of California, I would like to thank Pastor Robinson for her decades of service to our community and I wish her and Corby the very best as they enter this next chapter of life spending more time with their children, Casey and Haley, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

RECOGNIZING WWII ARMY PRIVATE WALTER J. KOWALCZYK ON THE 78TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2022*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifices of Walter J. Kowalczyk, a U.S. Army Private who earned a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart, and a Presidential Unit Citation while serving in the battles following the Invasion of Normandy.

Walter Kowalczyk was born in Niagara Falls in 1916 to Franciszek Kowalczyk and Sophie Smiech, Polish immigrants who had moved to the United States just a few years prior. Walter enlisted in the U.S. Army on April 23, 1941 as part of the Third Battalion, 334th Regiment, of the 84th Infantry Division, more commonly known as the "Railsplitter" division. He served in the European Theater of Operations from December 8, 1944 until September 26, 1945, during which his unit supported troops in Normandy in the aftermath of D-Day.

While serving as a paratrooper in Europe, Private Kowalczyk participated in the battles of Ardennes, Central Europe, and Rhineland. The campaign in Ardennes, otherwise referred to as the "Battle of the Bulge", was carried out from December 16, 1944 to January 25, 1945, and was the last German offensive which resulted in tremendous loss of life.

Later, Private Kowalczyk's unit was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism, gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps under unusually difficult and hazardous conditions during the Battle of Rhineland where he was wounded in action. The citation notes that the unit was assigned to the mission spearheading the advance between the Roer and Rhine rivers. The battalion encountered and defeated considerable enemy resistance, but advanced 42 miles along the banks of the Rhine River in 12 days. During the advance they captured and defended a strategically important German town, as well as several other cities, towns, and villages. Despite little rest and aggressive attacks from the enemy, the Third Battalion, 334th Infantry's conspicuous bravery and dauntless determination played a critical role in the Allied Forces advancement deep into Germany.

Private Kowalczyk was honorably discharged from the military on October 10, 1945 after more than four years of service. After serving, he returned to Niagara County and worked for Tam Ceramics before retiring in 1981. In Western New York he was a member of United Steel Workers, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Lewiston Fire Company No. 1, Power City Lodge, Italian Daughters and Sons of America, and St. Peter's Church. An avid sportsman, he participated in the 3F Sportsmen's Club and became a charter member of the North American Fishing Club. Additionally, he was an active member of the local veteran community, joining Postage Post 146 of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Loyal Order of the Moose, and the Polish Legion of American Veterans.

Private Kowalczyk married Sophie Saleski with whom he had three children: Carol, Chester, and Paul. They also had four grandchildren: Sarah, Michael, Teresa, and Jacquelyn as well as great-grandchildren: Geffory, Maylianna, and Antonio. Walter sadly passed away on November 12, 1993 with the shrapnel that resulted from enemy fire during the Battle of Rhineland still in his body. His legacy continued, however, as his son Chester and grandchildren Sarah and Michael all served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Madam Speaker, I take this moment to recognize the bravery of World War II Army Private Walter J. Kowalczyk.

HONORING BETHLEHEM CHURCH NO. 1 AND 2

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable community church, Bethlehem Church No. 1 and 2.

The old Bethlehem No. 1 church was given in 1973 down on Porter's Bayou. The founder of the Bayou was Anderson Robinson. The Robinson's were the first Black family on the Bayou. A letter found written by Martin, recounts that several families suggested a plan to build a Brush Harbor Church in 1888, which was done. Shortly, thereafter, the Bethlehem Church No. 1 was built on land donated by Randall Miller and was pastored by Zachariah Coleman. The No. 2 church was bought from Jeff Arrington and a congregation was formed there in early 1890. The first pastor was Reverend Williams, as mentioned in the letter. The last pastor of the Bethlehem Church No. 2 was Reverend Clarence Hunt, who still lives in Cleveland, Mississippi.

Bethlehem Church No. 2, an old Baptist church, was built in November of 1889. They closed in 2018 due to mold in the church and it was beyond repair. Unfortunately, there were no funds available for the needed repairs, so the decision was made to shut its doors. There are eight church members who joined in with Bethlehem Church No. 1, which is equally historic, about a quarter mile down the road.

When Bethlehem Church No. 2 closed its doors, the church only had a small congregation. There had been a disagreement within

the church for approximately 20 years and many of the members left because of it. Bernice Watts-Griffin, one of the eight people, left as congregants when Bethlehem No. 2 closed in 2018. She had been a member at Bethlehem Church No. 2 for over fifty years. The former church member said, "I was one of the first students to integrate Shaw Public Schools in the mid-1960's and we had many Civil Rights activists in the congregation." Mrs. Griffin was a young girl during that time and do not remember any specific or historic meetings held during that time.

Recently, there has been a discussion about trying to bet the church placed on a historic registry or named a historic site through the state. Hopefully, that comes to fruition. When asked what she would like to see happen to Bethlehem Church No. 2, Watts-Griffin said she wished the church would be formally declared and recognized as a historic building. It is the wish of the former members of Bethlehem Church No. 2 that the property could be repaired, however the damages inside the church would be of tremendous cost. It is with honor and hope to commend the vision of such a remarkable church as Bethlehem Church No. 2, where history is still standing. Although, they have joined with Bethlehem Church No. 1, the churches will continue to serve the community through service and commitment that has sustained the Bethlehem Church No. 2 family throughout this journey, and whose venture is a testament to God's promise of success and longevity to those who diligently seek Him and obey His will.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bethlehem Church No. 2 for their dedication to serving their members and community.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF AUSTIN KOHLHOFER ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2022*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Austin Kohlhofer of Delta, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Austin's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2026. Attending one of our nation's military academies offers the opportunity to serve our country and receive a world-class education. At the same time, these young men and women undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Austin brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2026. While attending Delta High School in Delta, Ohio, Austin participated in student government and was on the honor roll. Throughout high school, Austin was involved with football, wrestling, and track and field, earning varsity letters in all three. I am confident that Austin will carry the lessons of his